

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-07 PA-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8629

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, DA

SUBJ: DANISH REACTION TO BRITISH RENEGOTIATION
OF EC ACCESSION

REF: LONDON 3154

SUMMARY:

1. DANISH REACTION TO BRITISH LABOR GOVERNMENT'S
FORMAL STATEMENT (THROUGH QUEEN'S SPEECH) THAT
IT WILL SEEK FUNDAMENTAL RENEGOTIATION OF TERMS
OF ENTRY INTO EC HAS SO FAR BEEN MUTED, WITH
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUB-
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LICLY, SAYING THAT BRITISH POSITION SHOULD HAVE

NO RPT NO EFFECT ON DANISH MEMBERSHIP. QUESTION IS ONE OF SOME PERTIENENCE HERE SINCE DANISH EC ENTRY WAS INITIALLY POSTED ON BRITISH ENTRY. IN ITS MOST EXTREME FORM, QUESTION HAS RISEN ON WHETHER, SHOULD BRITISH DECIDE TO WITHDRAW FROM COMMUNITY, DENMARK WILL NOT NEED NEW REFERENDUM TO RECONFIRM MEMBERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TV INTERVIEW MARCH 13, FONMIN GULDBERG TOOK POSITIVEVIEW OF BRITISH INTENTION TO RE-NEGOTIATE ENTRY TERMS, STATING IT IS IN BOTH DENMARK'S AND EC'S INTEREST THAT BRITISH RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITY BE FINALLY RESOLVED SO THAT ALL CAN GET ON WITH FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY. WHEN ASKED HOW A BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM EC WOULD AFFECT THE DANISH POSITION, GULDBERG REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD HAVE NO RPT NO EFFECT. HE OBSERVED THAT THE HISTORICAL TIE-IN BETWEEN BRITISH AND DANISH ENTRY INTO COMMUNITY WAS PURELY POLITICAL AND NOT ECONOMIC. HE FELT THAT BRITISH WITHDRAWL WOULD NOT BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO DENMARK ECONOMICALLY AND THEREFORE SAW NO REASON FOR DENMARK TAKING SIMILAR ACTION. HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE ANOTHER DANISH REFERENDUM WOULD BE NECESSARY IF BRITISH WITHDREW SINCE THERE IS NO INDICATION THE RESULTS WOULD BE ANY DIFFERENT.

3. ON THE SAME DAY, FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN TOOK MUCH THE SAME POSITION IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE DCM, ADDING THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE LABOR GOVERNMENT'S CALL FOR RENEGOTIATION IS PRINCIPALLY A DOMESTIC POLITICAL PLOY.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT. EC OPPONENTS IN DENMARK HAVE SO FAR PROVEN STRONGER IN VOICE THAN IN NUMBERS. SOME HAVE ALREADY COMMENTED NEGATIVELY ON GULDBERG'S REMARKS AND MORE CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THEM. WHILE RECENT POLLS HAVE SHOWN A DECLINE IN PUBLUC SUPPORT FOR EC MEMBERSHIP, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE SEE NO REAL SIGNS OF FUNDAMENTAL DISCONTENT. ALL BUT THE HARD CORE OPPOSITION RECOGNIZE THAT DENMARK HAS SO FAR RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM EC MEMBERSHIP. GIVEN EXPECTATIONS OF SERIOUS DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THIS YEAR, MOST DANES FIND COMFORT IN COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP AND LOOK FOR WAYS TO MAKE IT WORK BETTER, PARTICULARLY WHERE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

FOR DENMARK CAN BE EXTRACTED.

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